

# Information Bulletin

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issued by the GDR Committee  
for European Security

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NO. 1304

**Nr. 1**

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January 1972



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Published by GDR Committee for European Security  
108 Berlin, Unter den Linden 32/34



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## Introduction

The GDR Committee for European Security is the body representative of the interests of the public in the German Democratic Republic. It takes its lead from the main concern of the policies pursued by the Socialist German state which was confirmed afresh in the government statement made by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR at the beginning of the new legislative period on 29 November 1971: "Our main aim will always be the relaxation of tension and safeguarding of peace and security in Europe in order that this continent, which has throughout its history been constantly battered by wars and crises, may become a continent of peaceful cooperation between its peoples." This great aim has been the deciding factor in the European policy of our state since it was founded. One can justly say, without fear of contradiction, that a new generation has grown up in the GDR for which peaceful coexistence in Europe is both a natural and at the same time vital concern.

This is demonstrated on the one hand by the lessons of the Second World War which have been recognized and heeded in our state built upon an anti-fascist foundation. On the other hand all the citizens of the GDR are in complete agreement that our great task of Socialist development can only be carried out successfully in an atmosphere of peace. Thus the active participation of the GDR in numerous initiatives on the part of the Socialist states for European security has always been a fight carried out with the wide agreement of the whole people in order to safeguard the results gained through our hard work up till now.

The activity of the GDR Committee for European Security is determined at the present time by the growing extent to which the public in all European countries is joining in common action aimed at convening a conference of states on security and cooperation before the end of 1972. This has now become a real possibility. All those who are sparing no efforts to accomplish this now see their aim nearer than ever. It was in this atmosphere of optimism that our committee met several times in 1971. The following is a report on these meetings.

At the same time none of the committee members would deny that

there are many parties hostile to a relaxation in tension who are still trying with all their might to delay a conference of states or who still insist on laying down certain unacceptable preconditions. The representatives of the working class, the cooperative farmers, scientists, youth and women, artists and ecclesiastical circles who are active in the GDR Committee will endeavour to do everything in their power to win through with the idea of the need for cooperation between the European states on an equal footing. They fully support the preparations for the forum undertaken by the European public in order to lend weight to the demands for security and cooperation on our continent by the cooperation of all those forces wishing to secure a peaceful and democratic future for Europe. They join in with the forces in all other states who are ready for reconciliation in demanding stable peace which our continent so urgently needs.

By signing the transit agreement with the FRG and the agreements with the West Berlin Senate the GDR has shown that complicated questions can be solved by negotiations between European states of different social structure. This constructive contribution to European security is complemented by the active participation of all the social strata in our country in the preparations for a forum of the European public. We belong to the peace-loving forces on our continent which will continue to intensify and increase their efforts in the interest of security and cooperation in Europe.



## **Documents of the GDR Committee for European Security**

### **Position of the GDR Committee for European Security as regards the results of the First Consultative Meeting in Brussels from 22 to 24 June 1971**

The members of the GDR Committee for European Security are unanimous in their approval of the results of the consultative meeting between personalities and representatives of social organizations from the majority of European states which took place in Brussels from 22 to 24 June 1971.

They completely and fully support the suggestion to prepare for a forum of the European public in order to lend weight to the demands for security and cooperation on our continent by joint action of all those forces wishing to ensure a peaceful and democratic future for Europe.

Mindful of the experience of history that German imperialism has unleashed two catastrophic world wars and in view of the manoeuvres and intrigues carried out by those forces in Europe and outside its borders which do not want to resign themselves to the results of the Second World War and which are interested in maintaining tension along the dividing line between Socialism and capitalism in Europe we would stress: the European public should do its utmost to see that the conference on security and cooperation in Europe suggested by the member states of the Warsaw Pact be convened as soon as possible, without further delay and without any preconditions whatsoever.

It is the duty of all the peoples on our continent to raise their voices in supporting their governments in such aspirations, or in influencing their governments to sit down at the negotiating table in order to discuss and decide upon those agreements based on international law which guarantee peace and cooperation in Europe. It is not enough just to want peace, the peoples of Europe must enforce it!

The GDR Committee for European Security is acting in complete agreement with the constructive policy aimed at security and cooperation in Europe, adopted by the Socialist German Democratic Republic as confirmed anew in the peace program of the Eighth Congress of the

Socialist Unity Party of Germany by the words: We are prepared to work together with all the political and social forces on our continent which are in favour of security and peace in Europe and for cooperation on a basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of all states. We will give our active support to the recommendations of the Brussels' consultative meeting regarding the preparation for a forum of the European public on the widest possible social basis.  
Berlin, 8 July 1971

## **In Favour of an International Forum on European Security and Cooperation**

Statement made by the GDR Committee for European Security

During its meeting on 2 December 1971 the GDR Committee for European Security ascertained to its deep satisfaction that since its last round of discussions new advances had been made on the path to securing a lasting peace on our continent.

The convening of a conference of states on European security and cooperation before the end of 1972 is now a real possibility. Public opinion in all European countries is increasingly calling for joint action to transform this possibility into a reality.

The GDR Committee for European Security welcomes the convening of a further consultative meeting to be held in Brussels in January 1972 between representatives of European public opinion to discuss the tasks and preparations for a large forum of the European peoples on peace and security. Such a forum could unite and decisively further the numerous initiatives taken by different currents in the public for developing a comprehensive movement in favour of equality among the European states and in favour of an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. We shall make our constructive contribution to this consultative meeting.

With satisfaction, too, the committee has noticed the positive changes in the situation on our continent which have been achieved thanks to the persistent efforts of the Soviet Union, the GDR and other Socialist states. It has once more been demonstrated that the Socialist community of states is the main force for peace and that the coordinated policy adopted by its members on the basis of equality serves the vital interests of the peoples in Europe. As in the Four-Power-Talks on West Berlin which

were facilitated and furthered by the constructive attitude of the GDR, the government of the German Democratic Republic also laid the foundation for positive results in the negotiations between the GDR and the FRG by consistently working for realistic solutions in the interest of peace and security in the heart of Europe. This policy in the interest of peaceful coexistence between the European peoples was affirmed in the government statement read out to the People's Chamber by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR on 29 November 1971<sup>1</sup>.

*Recent events once more demonstrate that the participation of the GDR in European politics on a basis of equality makes peace more secure.* They also show clearly that even the most complicated questions can be solved by negotiations and that tension which has lasted for decades can also be reduced.

The population of the GDR is in full agreement with the most broadly-based circles of public opinion on our continent that the conditions have completely matured for immediate practical preparations for a conference of states on a multilateral basis. We are strongly against any attempts to delay or burden with preconditions the convening of a conference of states on security and cooperation in Europe. In particular we condemn the activities of certain imperialist circles interested in prolonging tension who are trying to delay the ratification of the treaties concluded by the USSR and the People's Republic of Poland with the FRG.

*The GDR Committee for European Security appeals to all peace-loving forces on our continent to increase their joint efforts in the interest of peaceful coexistence in Europe and to contribute to the success of the forum of the European public.*

Berlin, 2 December 1971

## **Extracts from the discussion held at the meeting of the GDR Committee for European Security on 2 December 1971**

### **The time has come for a conference on security and cooperation in Europe**

Professor Max Steenbeck:

The realization of the expediency, indeed necessity of a European security conference between the governments of all the European states, with the inclusion of the USA and Canada, has also grown recently on the Western side although there is still strong resistance and reservations there. The Soviet Union and with it the other member states of the Warsaw Pact have been demanding for a long time now that such a conference take place. The growing preparedness of the other states to participate is of course above all a result of the changing balance of power. The position of the Western world and its leading power, the United States of America, has been greatly weakened by many factors including the war in Vietnam and not long ago by their failing economic power and the effects of this on the imperialist currency system. This fact once more shows that we as citizens of the German Democratic Republic can serve the cause of peace, security and cooperation in Europe most effectively by working to the best of our ability in order to strengthen the power and international reputation of our state and thus the Socialist states allied with us as well.

*The desire for peace and security in Europe is such a foregone conclusion and urgent need of the people on our continent that no government can resist the call for a European security conference in the long run.* Just as nowadays in the Federal Republic of Germany influential monopoly-capital circles are forced, against their will, to search for new ways of revising their old attitude against relaxation of tension in Europe because they would otherwise find themselves in direct contrast with the opinion of the majority of people, thus the other imperialist rulers in the West will also find themselves forced to agree to a European security conference. But they should not be allowed to do this in the hope of letting the conference purposely come to no concrete results or of misusing it. They

have tried often enough in the past to misuse the concept of "Europe" by meaning only their Western part of Europe when using this expression. Of course no-one in the world today can afford to say anything else but that he is for peace. The USA also once maintained that their activities in Vietnam were aimed at securing peace. We will not allow the restless will for peace inherent in Socialism to be put on a level with the intentions of those who are the only ones to have made direct use of the atom bomb and recently of chemical weapons against a civilian population. *Our will for peace is deeply anchored in our Socialist ideology.* This was shown on the very first day of the October Revolution in Lenin's notable and famous decree on peace which was meant "for everyone". Socialism sees confirmation of its destiny as the social order of the future in its development. Therefore it cannot be in its interest to build upon scorched earth; Socialism needs peace!

*We desire security and cooperation in Europe but we will arrange our own house according to our own wishes.* No conference can ever remove the fundamental contradictions between imperialist capitalism and Socialism from the face of the earth. However a conference *can* ensure that despite all these contradictions there is no shooting, but rather that it leads to the further development of humanity in a peaceful way. For without contradictions there can of course be no development.

The possibilities have grown for convening a conference of the European states, including the USA and Canada, on security and cooperation in Europe before the end of 1972.

The efforts of the European public aimed at obtaining security and cooperation on our continent have entered a new phase.

The Belgian Association for European Security and Cooperation has invited representatives of the public in the European states to attend a second consultative meeting from 11 to 13 January 1972 which is to take place in Brussels on the broadest possible basis. The main aim is to win over the representatives of all shades and hues of public opinion to participate in the Brussels meeting, who are working for lasting peace and for a government conference on questions of European security and cooperation. Above all they wish to show convincingly that the representatives of the public must redouble their efforts to force hesitant governments, or to make it easier for them, to conclude those agreements binding in international law which are necessary if European security and cooperation are to be maintained.

## **The coordinated Socialist peace policy is the main driving force behind the changes taking place in Europe – The GDR is doing everything within its power for European security**

Dr. Ernst Scholz:

The peoples of Europe have declared themselves in favour of a relaxation in tension, of cooperation and lasting peace in Europe in numerous declarations and demonstrations and demand with increasing vigour the guarantees necessary for achieving this.

We are in full agreement with the statement made by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Leonid Ilych Brezhnev, during his visit to France that Europe is perhaps close to a turning-point in its history. This is above all the result of the persistent and determined efforts of the USSR to realize the peace program adopted by the 24th Party Congress of the CPSU as well as the similar policies of the other states in the Socialist community and their joint campaign of action.

*The Socialist peace policy has proved itself to be the main driving force behind the changes taking place in Europe*

The conference of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact states which ended only recently once more showed the full accord of the member states of the Warsaw Pact in their assessment of the situation in Europe.

The new and positive moments in European development find expression in the treaties concluded by the FRG with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Poland in which the FRG recognizes the territorial status quo in Europe including the frontier between the GDR and the FRG as well as the Polish border in the West and thus the obligation in international law arising from such a recognition neither in the present nor in the future to make territorial demands.

The speedy ratification and realization of these treaties are of fundamental importance for the situation on the European continent. The communique issued after the Oreanda talks between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Chancellor of the FRG stated, and rightly so, that the rapid coming into force of these treaties



"would herald a decisive turning-point in the relations between the countries involved".

The Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin which constitutes the prerequisite for eliminating a dangerous source of tension in the heart of Europe is a direct result of the peace policy pursued by the Socialist states. It demonstrates clearly that it is possible to force back the influence of those forces in Europe interested only in tension and conflict and thus settle difficult international problems by negotiations.

*In the negotiations with the representatives of the FRG the GDR has always taken the initiative*

The international public recognizes and appreciates that the German Democratic Republic has essentially contributed to the realization of the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin by its consultations and agreements with the Soviet Union.

In the past few months and weeks the GDR has spared no efforts to bring the negotiations with the government of the FRG and the West Berlin Senate to a successful conclusion. In this connection I would like to make the following points:

The main aim of the GDR in these negotiations was to make its own contribution to the speedy coming-into-force of the Four-Power-Agreement on West Berlin. In the interest of peace and the maintenance of security in Europe we showed our willingness to make concessions in the negotiations. Of course we did, however, rebuff all attempts from the other side to negate the sovereign rights and legitimate interests of the GDR. As far as the transit agreement is concerned this is clearly an independent treaty concluded by both sides exercising their sovereign competences, which directly substantiates certain rights and duties for both sides and to the adherence of which both sides are fully responsible in international law.

We cannot, however, deny that the negotiations were by no means easy. The difficulties resulting from the complexity of the matter were further increased by the efforts of the other side to push through certain aims in the negotiations with the GDR which could not be achieved by the three Western Powers in the Quadripartite Agreement.

The agreement fulfils all the demands which are made on an independent agreement in international law between two sovereign states inde-

pendent of each other in accordance with the rules of international law and international practice. The agreement maintains the sovereign rights of the GDR and fully guarantees the recognition of its legitimate interests. The example in practising the principles of peaceful coexistence as shown in the relations between the USSR and France will have a far-reaching effect on the further developments in Europe. The peoples of Europe have seen that the further development and extension of relations between the USSR and France is an important factor in international security. The Soviet-French declaration and the principles of cooperation between both states represent a form of agreement binding in international law between Socialist and capitalist states which creates new possibilities for the further implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

*We have come closer to the practical realization of a security conference*

The large majority of European states are in favour of holding a European security conference. Preparing for it and carrying it out has become the main topic of discussion in talks between the European states.

The further development in the attitude of the French government to this question is of fundamental importance for the realization of this conference idea. The Soviet-French declaration and the 13 principles of cooperation between the USSR and France, whose historical validity for the present and future has been welcomed throughout the world, is a firm basis both for the preparations for as well as the actual work and results of a security conference. In the above-mentioned declaration both states spoke out in favour "of beginning the multilateral preparations for a conference as soon as possible with the approval of the interested states in order to come to an agreement on the contents of the agenda, the mode of procedure, a definite date and the way of convening the conference" in Helsinki. Both sides expressed the desire to organize the conference so that it could take place during 1972.

Suitable starting points for the preparations for a security conference are contained in the ideas put forward by France regarding the arrangements for the preliminary conference. For example, the French Foreign Minister, Schumann, announced that after bilateral talks with the Finnish Foreign Ministry and multilateral talks with the heads of the missions of the interested states, accredited in Helsinki there would be the possibility



for the foreign ministers of the participating states to meet together. After working together for about eight days they could be relieved by their deputies who for their part would concern themselves with the individual problems in working committees. After discussions lasting about 2 months the foreign ministers could then meet once more to put the finishing touches to the preparations.

As we all know, the Finnish government has taken great initiatives to bring about the security conference. In a memorandum distributed in May 1969 to all the European states and the USA and Canada as well Finland declared its willingness to act as host for the conference. In 1970 Finland suggested that the Finnish Foreign Ministry should have talks with the leaders of the missions accredited in Helsinki and other authorized representatives of the interested states to prepare for a European security conference and then to go over to multilateral preparatory meetings. In addition, Finland has taken over the role of coordinator in the questions regarding a European security conference through its numerous probing activities, including journeys made by a special envoy.

I would also like to go into more detail about the activities of a number of European non-Socialist states. Austria, Spain, the Vatican and Cyprus, for example, have expressed their opinions in special memoranda, which were also handed over to the GDR, as regard the question of a European security conference. They all welcome the convening of such a conference. These memoranda contained a number of starting-points for continuing the conference initiatives. The attitude of the smaller NATO states is also clearly shown by such facts as the naming of a special envoy in the Dutch Foreign Ministry, responsible for questions of European security and the special probing tour which he made.

The concrete suggestions of the Warsaw Treaty states as regards the agenda for the first European security conference are being met with wider and wider approval. This is of course quite understandable; for the suggested questions are those which are of interest to all the European states to the same extent since they are basic questions of European security and – what is very important – are considered as problems which can be solved. This includes, in particular, an agreement on an overall European renunciation of force which would commit all the states in Europe to the same extent and thus guarantee them protection in international law against military attacks. Life itself has shown that such

a renunciation of force must be based on recognition of the inviolability of the territorial status quo, of the borders in particular, as well as on recognition of the territorial integrity of the states in question.

All the European states would also be affected by discussions on the extension of relations on the basis of equality in the fields of trade, commerce, science, technology and culture and would benefit equality from such an undertaking. It is of course clear that the first security conference would not be able to solve all the pending problems. The Socialist states thus made the suggestion, which has also met with general approval that a permanent organ be set up at the first conference in which problems of security and cooperation, for example preparations for further conferences, the reduction of armed forces and military hardware in Europe as well as other problems, could be discussed further.

As a result of the discussions up till now agreement has been reached on which states should take part. All European states have the right to participate on the basis of equality in the security conference and the preparations for it.

The inclusion of the USA and Canada is based upon the fact that both states belong to NATO and have troops stationed in Europe.

### *No Obstructions or Delays*

While making use of the favourable conditions which have arisen we still do not lose sight of the fact that certain imperialist forces in NATO, especially in the USA, Great Britain and the FRG, are still offering resistance to the multilateral preparations for and convening of a European security conference and indeed that they are trying to complicate the situation in Europe.

These circles stress that the go-ahead for the security conference can only be given when all the phases of the West Berlin agreement have been concluded. It would seem as if the detente process is taking place too quickly for these forces and that with this formulation they are trying to apply the brakes on the road to the security conference. Even such a question as the participation on an equal basis of all the European states – and thus of the GDR and the FRG – which has already met with wide approval is subjected to queries from these forces.

As is well known the government of the FRG has expressed its principled

agreement to the security conference and has repeatedly undertaken obligations to contribute to its realization. This is a realistic step which the FRG had to take as a result of the change in the international balance of power in favour of the forces of peace and Socialism. However it is trying at the same time to make use of the convening of such a conference as a lever for obtaining concessions from the GDR in the form of so-called inner-German settlements. This is aimed at discrediting the GDR in connection with the security conference by trying to make out that it has a lesser status. The unacceptable thesis of "inner-German" special relations on the part of all the European states is in the final analysis non-recognition of the subjective existence in international law and sovereignty of the GDR.

Those responsible for the FRG should not tread upon this thin ice of the cold war and even less so when a European security conference is at stake. They should rather base their actions on the realities in Europe and take the logical consequences from the ascertainment of the government of the FRG itself which states that there can only be relations of peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the FRG.

The more favourable the outlook for convening a European security conference the greater are the attempts to impair this conference in its content and aims. These efforts are prompted by the demand to make the question of troops reductions the central point on the agenda of a European security conference. The Warsaw Pact states confront these imperialist manoeuvres with their logical suggestion to discuss the political and military questions of the European security conference in parallel and separately without any artificial connection with one another and thus find suitable solutions. The GDR, together with the other Warsaw Pact states, considers the suggestion made by the Finnish government to carry out preparatory multilateral consultations between the interested states in Helsinki, as the way best suited of achieving this.

We are of the opinion that it is necessary, in the interest of taking up as soon as possible multilateral conference preparations, to begin with such multilateral consultations even if certain individual states are not yet prepared to participate from the beginning. These multilateral consultative meetings could decide on the agenda for the security conference, the sequence of its work as well as on definite dates. In order that these multilateral consultative meetings are able to take the measures necessary for accelerating the convening and success-

ful implementation of the European security conference, it is important that official representatives delegated by the governments concerned should participate in them. A multilateral preparatory meeting could be held on the deputy foreign minister level. Of course even the coming-together of official representatives, for example at ambassadorial level would mark the beginning of a new stage in the conference preparations.

We must, however, make sure that the period laid aside for the conference preparations does not drag out endlessly but that it is limited to the minimum amount of time. The wide approval in the European capitalist countries for this project of a European security conference extends nowadays from the Marxist-Leninist parties to the Social-Democrats, Christian circles, bourgeois intellectuals right up to conservative politicians. It is most important to create a solid platform out of the identical or similar attitudes of these forces as regards a European security conference in order that great influence may be exerted through it in a manifold and organized form on the further developments towards a European security conference. In this process the national committees for European security have a significant task and particular responsibility.

*In accordance with the declared policy of our government, we are determined to do everything in our power to help consolidate peace in Europe and encourage peaceful cooperation between the states and peoples in Europe.*

**A broad movement of all political and social forces in Europe is bringing the representatives of all governments to the negotiating table for peace and security**

Professor Stefan Doernberg:

It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a real possibility of a fundamental turn in the history of Europe. The growing strength of the Socialist community of states, its persistent and constructive action for a stable and peaceful development of our continent have introduced a process whose historical significance cannot be valued highly enough. In this process special importance must be attached to the ever growing movement of the European public which is demanding more and more vociferously that the objective chances which have arisen be utilized

immediately. The strength of the Socialist community of states and the carrying power of the ideas of Socialism as well as the foreign policy of peaceful coexistence pursued by the Socialist states are the decisive factor in maintaining European security. The movement of the general public is a second decisive factor and both these factors have a parallel mode of action and are inter-dependent on each other.

The present situation in Europe is marked by the fact that great possibilities have arisen for endowing the fight of all peace-loving forces with a comprehensive character. The motives which cause the representatives of the most varied currents in the European public to strive towards security and cooperation in Europe are doubtlessly very different. The difference of these motives may, therefore, not be overlooked or obscured. We must however strive persistently to utilize the factors common to us all in the interest of European security and to develop them further.

The activities of the Belgian Association for European Security and Cooperation shows just how great the possibilities are for joint action between differing political and social forces. Representatives of almost all the large political parties and organizations in Belgium are actively participating in this association. For this reason it could very well become the initiator of a movement of the whole European public.

As is well known, in June of this year there took place in Brussels at the invitation of the Belgian Association a consultative meeting at which representatives from 23 European countries decided that it was necessary to convene a large forum of the European public. In the time which has elapsed since June considerable advances have been made in the most varied European countries. At the present time there exist in Belgium, Finland, the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, in Bulgaria, Hungary and the GDR national committees which have set themselves the aim of coordinating the preparations in their countries for this European forum. In several other countries, as for example in Great Britain, Austria, the FRG, Sweden, Rumania and West Berlin, there are working groups or initiative groups which are following the same aim. Similarly in France and Italy there is also a wide consensus of opinion in favour of convening a European forum but here the concrete preparations are however being made independently by the political parties and organizations of the countries themselves.

The novel character of the peoples' forum envisaged would be the fact that representatives of the most diverse political inclinations should take



part in order that the forum become representative in the most extensive way of the whole European public. It should be the task of the second consultative meeting in Brussels from 11 to 13 January 1972 to lay down the program, agenda, date and place for this peoples' forum.

The forum should above all fulfil the following tasks: *Firstly*, it should serve to manifest the will of the European peoples for convening a conference of the European states in 1972, including the USA and Canada, on the maintenance of European security and cooperation.

*Secondly*, it should develop constructive ideas regarding a stable system of security and the securing of cooperation in the most varied of fields on the basis of equality between all European states.

It should provide the possibility for a broad and free exchange of views with the aim of finding where their commonness of interests lies but this should not lead to an obscuring of the various attitudes.

The great task therefore lies in developing the broadest possible movement which is in line with the main concerns of our time – the extensive implementation of peaceful coexistence in the relations between all European states – but at the same time it must not be forgotten that the forces of imperialism, forced by the change in the balance of power to alter their approach, are still striving to channel the peoples' will for peace into stabilizing that system which has always been hostile to progress and which, due to its intrinsic characteristics, always has and always will threaten the peace and security of the peoples.

Thus this means that our own committee has a very wide field of action. We must propagate the necessity for a forum of the European public in the most convincing way as well as the right and duty of the peoples to make loud their will for peace.

In order to prepare the way for the peoples' forum as regards content we suggest the formation of 3 commissions. The first commission should deal with the basic political aspects of European security. This means such problems as, for example, the recognition binding in international law of the territorial status quo as the basis for European security, problems concerning the renunciation of force, disarmament and troop reductions as well as the creation of a mechanism for maintaining European security.

The second commission should deal with aspects of allround cooperation in Europe. This means questions of economic, scientific and technical as well as cultural cooperation and the joint solving of those-questions

connected with environment protection. It must be a task of particular importance to work out the close connection between the maintenance of European security and the development of all-European cooperation.

A third commission should deal with the information aspect, win over the support of the press, radio and television for the activity of our committee and foster the necessary contacts with journalists and publicists in other countries.

The time is more than ripe for concluding the necessary provisions and agreements binding in international law which will guarantee European security. The convening of a conference of states on European security and cooperation will be of a historical significance that cannot be overestimated. For the first time in the history of our continent the representatives of all interested states would meet together at the negotiating table to discuss and make the necessary decisions which would serve peace in Europe and thus throughout the whole of the world.

Although the conclusion of such agreements in international law must take place through authorized representatives of the different governments, the democratic public has the right, indeed the duty, to contribute to the success of these negotiations. The securing of peace and the development of cooperation in Europe are the very basic concerns of the peoples themselves. For this very reason it is of great importance that all peace-loving forces – independent of their political convictions, their social standing and their ideological positions – join together to work for this aim. The preparations for the large forum of the European public, our efforts to convene such a meeting as soon as possible next year demand all our energies. The chances nowadays so favourable for the safeguarding of European security and cooperation, for a fundamental change in the development of Europe into a firm bulwark of peace *can* and *must* be used without further hesitation.

## **European security – a matter of fundamental concern for Christians and Churches of all denominations**

Gerald Götting:

Everywhere on our continent people are becoming more and more aware of the fact that a stable system of collective security is a good guarantee for a peaceful future and for the development of constructive cooperation

between the states of Europe. In view of the soundness and inevitability of the initiatives of the Socialist states the parliamentarians of numerous West European countries have linked themselves with the demands for an all-European conference of states and also made their own suggestions to a certain extent. Elected representatives from the most diverse of parties and political directions have expressed themselves in parliamentary debates and personal statements in favour of preparing the conference on European security and cooperation on all sides and have said that all the interested states, including the GDR and the FRG, should participate in it, on an equal footing.

*The parliaments of the European states carry great responsibility in striving for peace and security.* No responsible parliamentarian can refuse to recognize this desire of the peoples. The People's Chamber of the GDR, whose sixth legislative period began just a few days ago, will continue to do all it can to encourage the peoples' movement for European security in accordance with the declared intention of its citizens, who on 14 November gave their approval to the election call of the National Council, a clear program of peace, and in accordance with the statement made by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers unanimously approved by the highest organ of people's representation.

We can also link up with the growing successes of the conferences of parliamentarians and other personalities in public life, which have taken place in the North European states. They spoke out during this past year in favour of beginning without further hesitation the practical preparations on a multilateral basis for a European security conference in accordance with the suggestion made by the Finnish government.

In this connection the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the People's Chamber of the GDR has taken on a significant activity by declaring itself willing to take part on a basis of equality in the preparations and in the European conference of parliamentarians which is to be convened upon the initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the summer of 1972. Although our Inter-Parliamentary Group does not yet belong to the Inter-Parliamentary Union it has nevertheless actively supported the work of this international organization by, for example, introducing draft resolutions, in order to encourage the convening of a European security conference also with the added help of the authority of the IPU. Thus numerous possibilities have arisen for letting the European peoples' congress become the cause of the whole democratic public on our continent.



*I would like to point out further that the endeavour for a conference of states has also met with exceptional response and lively support in ecclesiastical circles too.* As is well known, Pope Paul VI has repeatedly made it known that he considers it vital for the European states to guarantee European security by contractual agreements. He has declared the willingness of the Apostolic See to participate in the preparations for and implementation of a security conference. The Oecumenical Council of the Church and the denominational world unions active within it have placed themselves in different manifestations solidly behind the demand for convening a conference on security and cooperation in Europe. The fourth All-Christian Peace Assembly which met in Prague and the Fourth Berlin Conference of Catholic Christians from European States have categorically supported the suggestion for convening an all-European conference and have pointed out that the preparations for this conference are a matter of fundamental concern for all the peoples of Europe. The sixth general assembly of the Conference of European Churches in Nyborg described the holding of a European security conference on the basis of equal participation for all European states, including the GDR and the FRG, as a sensible step along the road to a European peace settlement.

Support for the holding of the European security conference is also developing in the Evangelical churches in our Republic. This matter is increasingly becoming the concern of leading church bodies. Thus the Third Federal Synod of the Union of Evangelical Churches in the GDR which took place in Eisenach and the Synod of the United Evangelical-Lutheran Churches in the GDR which met in Dresden have shown their unequivocal support for the respective oecumenical statements and are working for the realization of the demands contained therein. *Citizens of Christian faith are fully aware that their endeavours for peace are in complete agreement with the peace concept of the German Democratic Republic.* They will make their contribution. We know how important it is for a strong Socialist German state in the heart of Europe to make sure that security takes over from insecurity and cooperation takes over from strife. Peaceful harmony and cooperation on an equal basis between the states of Europe to their mutual advantage is the real aim, for the realization of which we will spare no effort.

**The working class, bearer of humanism and social progress, is aware of its special responsibility for peace, security and cooperation.**

*Karl Heilmann:*

I come from the VEB Carl Zeiss in Jena, one of the largest industrial plants in our republic. Our colleagues have a real need to concern themselves with the questions of the fight for peace and thus the problems of European security. Our colleagues welcome with deep satisfaction the peace program developed by the CPSU at its 24th Party Congress and its far-reaching activities. The fight of the Socialist community of states for securing peace and implementing peaceful coexistence, the constructive contribution made by our German Democratic Republic, finds undivided approval and active support among our working people.

Without the participation of the German Democratic Republic on the basis of equality no problem in Europe can be solved.

Zeiss instruments and equipment have helped numerous scientists to gain new insights into nature. They have served humanism and progress.

The results of the creative work, however, were misused under the conditions of imperialism for the oppression of foreign peoples as well as for the destruction of peoples and cultural values. This also meant that whole generations of Zeiss workers had to pay for this with their lives. Not until under the conditions of the longest period of peace in this century, under our workers' and farmers' power, has our plant been able to develop itself in the last 25 years four times as fast as during the previous 100 years.

From their own experiences of the history of their plant, our workers, our scientists know only too well that their own future and that of society can only be secured under the conditions of peace and Socialism.

Because of these reasons we are all interested in underlining our initiatives with 30,000 commitments and actions for strengthening our Socialist GDR. Here I would like simply to mention the team of workers on production line 8 in the optical plant which has committed itself to producing 61,000 extra spectacle lenses. I can assure you that our large team is sparing no effort to realize the peace program of the Eighth Congress of our Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

*It would also be in line with the role played by the working class in present society if, as already suggested by the French trade union, representatives from teams in large plants in the European countries were also invited to the forum of the European public so that they could lend weight to the desire of the working class to live and work in peace and security in Europe.*



# Appendix

## **Presidium of the GDR COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY**

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Professor Max *Steenbeck*, President of the Committee

Dr. Lothar *Bolz*, Vice-President of the Committee

Gerald *Götting*, Vice-President of the Committee

Professor  
Stefan *Doernberg*, General Secretary of the Committee

Professor  
Günter *Drefahl*, Member of the Presidium

Karl *Heilmann*, Member of the Presidium

Leonhardt *Helmschrott*, Member of the Presidium

Harry *Leupold*, Member of the Presidium

Ilse *Thiele*, Member of the Presidium

Egon *Winkelmann*, Member of the Presidium

## Members of the GDR Committee for European Security

<i>Balkow, Julius</i>	Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Chairman of the German-Belgian Society in the GDR
<i>von Brauchitsch, Manfred</i>	President of the Society Propagating the Olympic Ideal in the German Democratic Republic
<i>Becker, Regina</i>	Textile Worker in the Nationally-owned Erzgebirge Fine Spinning Mill
<i>Dr. Bolz, Lothar</i>	Chairman of the National Democratic Party of Germany, Chairman of the Baltic Sea Week Committee
<i>Chrestensen, Hildegard</i>	Wife of the Manager of the Semi-state Seed Cultivation Enterprise Chrestensen, Erfurt
Professor <i>Correns, Erich</i>	President of the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany
<i>Czepuck, Harry</i>	President of the Association of German Journalists, Vice-president of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ)
<i>Diener, Siegfried</i>	Member of the Central Council of the Free German Youth and Deputy Head of the International Relations Department of the Central Council of the Free German Youth
Professor <i>Doernberg, Stefan</i>	Deputy Director of the Institute for International Politics and Economics, Berlin
Professor <i>Drehfahl, Günter</i>	President of the Peace Council of the German Democratic Republic

<i>Fechner, Max</i>	Former Member of a Diet of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (before 1933)
<i>Feist, Manfred</i>	Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Department Head in the Central Committee of the SED
<i>Franke, Heinz</i>	Head of the International Relations Department in the National Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions
<i>Götting, Gerald</i>	Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, President of the People's Chamber of the GDR
Professor <i>Hahn, Gerhard</i>	Director of the Institute for International Relations, Potsdam-Babelsberg
<i>Hauser, Harald</i>	Writer
<i>Heilmann, Karl</i>	Chairman of the Trade Union Committee in the Nationally-owned Carl Zeiss Enterprise, Jena
<i>Helmschrott, Leonhardt</i>	Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany and Editor-in-chief of <i>Bauernecho</i>
<i>Dr. Herger, Wolfgang</i>	Secretary of the Central Council of the Free German Youth
<i>Jungblut, Hans</i>	Section Head of the International Relations Department in the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany
<i>Dr. Kertzscher, Günter</i>	Deputy Editor-in-chief of <i>Neues Deutschland</i>
<i>Knaak, Martin</i>	Social scientist, Chairman of the Trade Union Committee in the Housing Construction Combine, Berlin

<i>Kochs, H.</i>	Mayor of Rostock
<i>Kresse, Walter</i>	President of the Association of German Municipal Councils of the GDR, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber
Professor <i>Kuczynski, Jürgen</i>	Economist, Ordinary Member of the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin
<i>Langmann, Günter</i>	Chairman of the Trade Union Committee in the "Neptun" Nationally-owned Shipyard, Rostock
<i>Langner, Berta</i>	Secretary for International Relations in the National Council of the National Front
<i>Leo, Gerhard</i>	Foreign-Policy Commentator of <i>Neues Deutschland</i>
<i>Leupold, Harri</i>	Deputy Director of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Greater Berlin, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber
<i>Loch, Frieda</i>	Chairman of the Agricultural Production Cooperative at Polkenberg, Döbeln District, Member of the Council for Agricultural and Food Production of the GDR
<i>Matthes, Roland</i>	Several Times Olympic Swimming Champion and World Record Holder
<i>May, Gisela</i>	Actress
<i>Meyer, Gerhard-Rudolf</i>	Director General of the National Museums in Berlin
<i>Dr. D. Mitzenheim, Moritz</i>	Former Bishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Thuringia



<i>Neukrantz, Heinz</i>	Secretary of the National Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber
Professor <i>Poppe, E.</i>	Constitutional Law Expert, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg
Professor <i>Reintanz, Gerhard</i>	International Law Expert, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, President of the German-Italian Society in the GDR
<i>Roblick, Horst</i>	Chairman of the Agricultural Production Cooperative at Görlitz/Belten, Cottbus County
<i>Rümpel, Werner</i>	General Secretary of the GDR Peace Council
<i>Singer, Rudi</i>	Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Chairman of the National Radio Committee of the German Democratic Republic
Professor <i>Sieber, Rolf</i>	Chairman of the Inter-parliamentary Group of the GDR People's Chamber
Dr. <i>Scholz, Ernst</i>	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the GDR
<i>Speckin, Rudi</i>	Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Workers' Conference of the Baltic Sea Countries, Norway and Iceland
von <i>Schnitzler, Karl-Eduard</i>	Chief Commentator of the National Television Committee of the GDR
Professor <i>Schulz, F. H.</i>	Director of the First Medical Clinic and Polyclinic of the Humboldt University in Berlin
<i>Schwabe, Ernst-Otto</i>	Editor-in-chief of the foreign-policy weekly <i>horizont</i>

<i>Seghers, Anna</i>	Writer, President of the German Writers' Association
Professor <i>Steenbeck, Max</i>	Chairman of the GDR Research Council
Professor <i>Steiniger, Peter-Alfons</i>	International Law Expert, Humboldt University in Berlin, President of the GDR League for the United Nations
<i>Thiele, Ilse</i>	Member of the Council of State, Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Democratic Women's League of the GDR
Dr. <i>Toeplitz, Heinrich</i>	President of the Supreme Court of the GDR, President of the Federation of German Lawyers
Professor <i>Töpfer, Hanna</i>	Deputy Chairman of the National Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions
Professor <i>Weichelt, Wolfgang</i>	Chairman of the Constitution and Law Committee of the People's Chamber
<i>Winkelmann, Egon</i>	Deputy Department Head in the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany
Professor <i>Wirzberger, Karl-Heinz</i>	Rector of the Humboldt University in Berlin
<i>Wogatzki, Benito</i>	Writer
<i>Zeuke, Werner</i>	Manager of the Zeuke and Wegwerth Semi-state Enterprise

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